

Appl. No.: 10/588,393
Amdt. dated February 10, 2009
Reply to Office Action of February 2, 2009

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 2, 2009 treated original as-filed Claims 1-20 of the PCT application (PCT/EP2004/001069), and required restriction between Group I (Claims 1-6) and Group II (Claims 7-13). Claims 14-17 were indicated to be "common" claims that would be examined along with the claims of the selected group. Additionally, Claims 18-20 were not treated because they were deemed to be in improper multiple-dependent form.

Applicant notes that during the international processing of the above-noted PCT application, amended claims were filed. See the enclosed copy of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability (IPRP). In particular, original Claims 7-13 were canceled, and original Claims 14-20 were renumbered as Claims 7-13 (and slightly amended). Thus, the claims that should have been treated in the present Office Action are Claims 1-13 attached to the IPRP. As a result, the present restriction requirement is moot, since only claims of Group I are presented.

Applicant has also amended Claim 9 to correct a typographical error, and has amended Claims 11-13 to make them regular dependent claims.

Thus, Claims 1-13 are now presented for examination on the merits. It is noted that the IPRP indicated these claims to be patentable over the art in the Search Report.

If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss any issue raised by the present response, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number below the registration number.

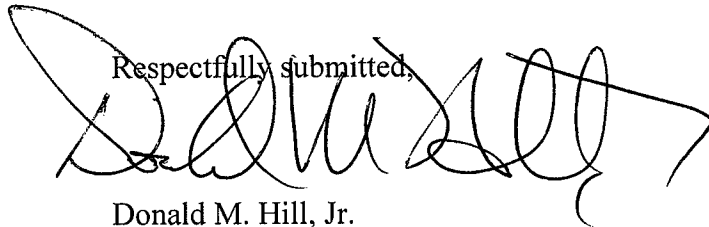
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It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of

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this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald M. Hill, Jr.', written over the 'Respectfully submitted,' text.

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